

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Beffort DATE TYPED 2/17/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Adult Probation and Parole Officer Raises SB 771

ANALYST Peery

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$2,028.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

No Response

State Personnel (SP)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

State Bill 771 appropriates \$2,028,000 from the general fund to the New Mexico Corrections Department for the purpose of providing a salary increase of two dollars ninety-three cents (\$2.93) per hour for classified service adult probation and parole officers.

Significant Issues

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMCD reports a raise would probably increase the morale and productivity of probation and parole officers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$2,028,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMCD states the administrative impact to the Department will be positive in that the appropriation will probably improve the Department's ability to recruit and retain probation and parole officers.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to Senate Bill 770 and Senate Bill 798, each appropriates \$1,200,000 to NMCD to hire an additional 24 full-time adult probation and parole officers. Duplicates Senate Bill 797.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The House Appropriation and Finance Committee adopted the executive recommendation that includes \$466,000 to increase probation and parole officers starting salary from \$13.07 to \$14.00 an hour. To address compaction, the recommendation adds a factor of three quarters of one percent of the current salary per employee for every year the employee has been in the current classification. This increase is subject to passage from the full House of Representatives and the Senate.

NMCD reports probation and parole officers have not received any raises in recent years, do not benefit from a 20 year retirement program as do correctional officers, and are significantly underpaid when compared to federal and Bernalillo County probation and parole officers. NMCD states federal and Bernalillo County probation and parole officers currently make five to seven dollars more per hour than Department probation and parole officers. NMCD reports the vacancy rate for probation and parole officers has recently been as high as 34 percent.

NMCD reports caseloads for probation and parole officers continue to increase, and are currently between 90-134 offenders per officer. NMCD's 2nd quarter key quarterly performance measure for "number of regular caseloads of probation and parole officers" was 100. Their FY05 target for this performance measure is 77. The national standard is only 65 offenders per officer. According to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau statistics, New Mexico's probation and parole population growth in percent increase ranked number one in the nation from 1995-2002. NMCD states based on current projections, it appears that the number of probation and parole clients will increase by 12 percent by June 30, 2005.

RLP/lg:yr